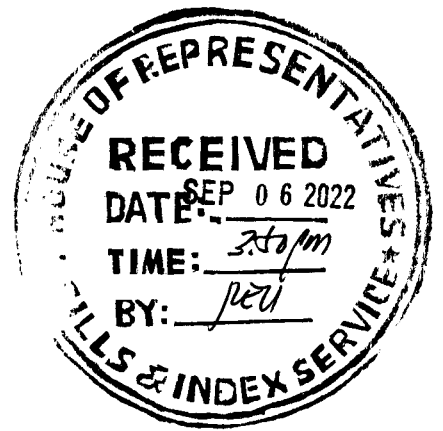


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4487



**AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE TECHNICAL
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)
IN 1ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF SOUTH COTABATO TO BE
ESTABLISHED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POLOMOLOK, SOUTH
COTABATO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ISIDRO D. LUMAYAG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the creation of a Technical Education and Skills Authority (TESDA) District Office for the 1st Legislative District of South Cotabato and to be established in the Municipality of Polomolok, South Cotabato.

Through Republic Act No. 11243, the 1st District of South Cotabato was reapportioned in 2019 thereby separating/creating the Lone Legislative District of General Santos City. As a result thereof, the 1st District of South Cotabato is now reduced to the Municipalities of Polomolok, Tupi, and Tampakan.

Prior to the reapportionment, local residents of Polomolok, Tupi, and Tampakan who intended to avail of TESDA services, trainings and programs need to travel to TESDA Offices located outside the District. This is not only inconvenient and time consuming for them, but also entailed additional cost. The establishment of a TESDA District Office in Polomolok, South Cotabato will therefore make TESDA services and trainings more accessible to the local constituency.

The 1st District of South Cotabato likewise host Dole Philippines Inc., the largest pineapple producer in the world, and many agro-based industries. These industries, together with their allied enterprises, are constantly in need of highly skilled workers, machine operators, professional drivers, industrial workers, agro-based technicians, and other related service providers. The establishment of a TESDA District Office in this jurisdiction is not only strategic due to the presence of these industries, but is highly beneficial for the local residents and ultimately to local growth and development.

Accordingly, the Municipality of Polomolok is a first-class suburban municipality. It is the biggest municipality in the 1st District of South Cotabato, and even of the entire South Cotabato Province. It ranked 9th Overall Most Competitive Municipality and 4th in the Economic Dynamism Pillar in the Philippines. It is economically developed and is becoming a center for commerce and industry in Region 12. It is also highly accessible through its established road network. Polomolok, South Cotabato, as a site for the TESDA District Office, is therefore ideal and administratively practicable.

Finally, local residents of the 1st District of South Cotabato, especially those coming from low-income families, will be able to avail TESDA services right at their doorstep. In the end, the vocational skills training shall help them seek practicable livelihood and gainful employment within the locality and elsewhere.

Hence, the approval of this measure is highly recommended.



ISIDRO D. LUMAYAG

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. A regular District Office of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is hereby created in the 1ST Legislative District of South Cotabato to be established in the Municipality of Polomolok, South Cotabato, and to be known as the “TESDA Polomolok District Office”.

SECTION 2. The Secretary General of TESDA shall immediately include in the Authority’s program the operationalization of the TESDA Polomolok District Office, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the existing provincial office. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operations of the regular TESDA district office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. The Secretary General of TESDA shall issue such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette, or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,